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Genre

Animal
fantasy

Comprehension
Skills and Strategy

- Theme and Plot
- Compare and Contrast
- Prior Knowledge

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HUBERT —AND— FRANKIE

BY LANA CRUCE



ILLUSTRATED BY TOM LABAFF





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Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois
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ISBN: 0-328-13299-3

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Hubert had lived with the Kent family for a long time. He liked to go for walks and take naps. Frankie was the new puppy in the family.

Hubert thought Frankie was trouble. Frankie chased the cat and liked chewing on shoes. Hubert knew better than to do those things. He knew how to listen.





Madeline tried and tried to teach Frankie to sit. Frankie would not listen. Madeline kept trying. Frankie just chased his tail. He rolled over on his back. He tried to lick her. He did everything except listen.

"I give up," said Madeline.



At first, Madeline thought the things that Frankie did were funny. Then Frankie grabbed and chewed her baseball glove. Madeline did not find this funny. It was not funny when Frankie left a half-chewed bone in Mr. Kent's shoe.





The next day Mrs. Kent found Frankie digging in the garden.

"Frankie, no!" she yelled. Frankie wagged his tail and went right on digging. Mrs. Kent patted Hubert on the head.

"You are a good dog, Hubert," she said. "But Frankie just does not listen."



Hubert thought about when he was a puppy. He did not always listen either. It was hard to understand what Mr. and Mrs. Kent were saying. It took a long time to learn what their words meant. Hubert thought that he might be able to help.





Hubert looked for Frankie. Suddenly Frankie came racing into the room, dripping muddy water everywhere.

"STOP!" Hubert barked. Frankie stopped. He looked surprised.

"You have to learn to listen, Frankie." Hubert took Frankie out into the yard.



"The first thing you have to learn is your name," woofed Hubert. "Your name is Frankie. When someone says your name, you have to listen. Now let's practice." Frankie nodded his head. His ears flopped up and down.





Hubert and Frankie practiced all afternoon. Frankie learned his name and what the words *no* and *stop* meant. Hubert taught Frankie to sit, lie down, and stay.

"This is fun, Hubert," Frankie barked, licking Hubert's nose.



During dinner that night, Hubert and Frankie sat waiting by the table. Hubert wanted to show everyone that he had taught Frankie how to listen. Frankie wanted to show off all the things he had learned.

No one was paying attention. The Kents were too busy talking.





Suddenly, Madeline dropped her hamburger. It landed close to Frankie's nose. Frankie reached out to lick it.

"No, Frankie!" Madeline said. Frankie stopped right away. The Kent family all stopped talking and stared at Frankie.



"Frankie is learning to listen!" said Mr. Kent. "Maybe he can learn some tricks after all! Maybe he can learn how to sit." Frankie sat as fast as he could.

"How did he learn that?" asked Mrs. Kent. "Did you teach him, Madeline?"

"I tried, but he wouldn't listen," Madeline said.





"How did you learn to listen, Frankie?" Madeline asked. Frankie ran over to Hubert and put his paw on Hubert's paw.

"Hubert taught him!" said Madeline. Hubert barked happily. The Kent family was very proud of Frankie and Hubert. Mrs. Kent gave both dogs a treat.



Frankie's behavior got better every day. He listened when he heard his name. Hubert and Frankie agreed that their favorite things to do were to take a walk with the Kents, and then take a nap on the rug.

Once in a while, Frankie still chased the cat. After all, he was just a puppy!





Learning the Rules

Learning to listen and follow rules is an important part of being responsible. In this story, Hubert, who already knows the rules, helps Frankie learn to behave.

Part of being responsible can be helping those who are younger learn the rules. Can you remember a time when you helped someone younger than you learn a rule? Why did you do this? How did it make you feel?



Reader Response

1. What is the big idea of this story? What events happened in this story? Use a chart like the one below to record your answers.

Big Idea:

Beginning
↓
Middle
↓
End

- 2. What do you already know about dogs that helped you understand the story better?
- 3. Chase is a word that tells how someone moves. What other words can you think of that tell how someone moves?
- 4. Who do you think worked harder, Hubert or Frankie? Why?

